

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 252034Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7431

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01193

DEPARTMENT PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: CIA MEN IN BRITAIN

REF: LONDON 856

BEGIN SUMMARY. PM HEATH TOLD COMMONS YESTERDAY HE ACCEPTED AMERICAN EMBASSY DENIAL OF TRUTH OF "TIMES" STORY ABOUT CIA AGENTS BEING INFILTRATED INTO BRITISH TRADE UNIONS. AMBIVALENT "TIMES" EDITORIAL JANUARY 25 GOES INTO SUBJECT WITHOUT EITHER ACCEPTING EMBASSY DENIAL OR REASSERTING ITS OWN ACCUSATIONS. ITS ARTICLE LAST WEEK DID STIMULATE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF LETTER

WRITING TO BRITISH PRESS, BUT WITH EXCEPTION OF "TIMES" ITSELF, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT GOSSIP COLUMN OF "GUARDIAN," BRITISH PRESS HAS NOT GIVEN STORY MUCH PLAY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE TO A COMMONS QUESTION ABOUT CIA AGENTS BEING INFILTRATED INTO BRITISH TRADE UNIONS, PM HEATH SAID ON JANUARY 24 THAT CATEGORICAL DENIAL HAD BEEN ISSUED BY AMERICAN EMBASSY AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO TRUTH IN ALLEGATIONS WHATSOEVER. CONFIDENTIAL

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HOME SECRETARY CARR, IN WRITTEN REPLY TO SIMILAR QUES-

TION, SAID "IT IS A LONG-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE THAT SECURITY MATTERS ARE NOT DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC. BUT I THINK IT RIGHT TO SAY THAT AS A MATTER OF GENERAL PRACTICE ANY ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE KEPT UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY. ANY EVIDENCE OF IMPROPER ACTIVITIES IS FOLLOWED UP AT ONCE AND NEITHER I NOR FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD HESITATE TO TAKE ANY ACTION WE THOUGHT APPROPRIATE. IN VIEW OF CONCERN WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED ABOUT CIA, I WOULD ADD THAT GOVERNMENT FULLY ACCEPTS STATEMENT BY US EMBASSY THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH IN RECENTLY PUBLISHED ALLEGATIONS."

2. UNDER HEADLINE "THE CIA UP TO ITS TRICKS?" "TIMES" OF JANUARY 25 EDITORIALIZED AT SOME LENGTH AND IN AN AMBIVALENT FASHION ABOUT ITS LAST WEEK'S ARTICLE ON CIA ACTIVITIES IN BRITAIN. EXCERPTS FOLLOW: "INFORMATION PUBLISHED IN "THE TIMES" LAST WEEK...WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL OPERATING IN BRITAIN HAD RECENTLY BEEN INCREASED BY SOME THIRTY OR FORTY...THAT INFORMATION WAS DENIED BY THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY AND ITS DENIAL WAS REPEATED AND ENDORSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND HOME SECRETARY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS YESTERDAY. IT IS IN THE NATURE OF INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS THAT THE SOURCES FOR INFORMATION PUBLISHED ABOUT THEM CANNOT BE PUBLICLY DISCLOSED, AND THAT DENIALS OF WHAT IS PUBLISHED ABOUT THEM CANNOT BE REINFORCED BY GIVING CHAPTER AND VERSE. A CONFLICT OF ASSERTION REMAINS AND PEOPLE MUST MAKE THEIR OWN JUDGMENTS ABOUT IT..."

3. "THIS MUCH IS AGREED. THERE IS A CIA STATION IN

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01193

BRITAIN, AND IT IS HERE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. IN VIEW OF THE RECORD OF THAT ORGANIZATION THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BE WATCHFUL OF IT-- ALTHOUGH THERE IS MUCH MORE REASON TO BE CONCERNED AT THE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS HERE OF POWERS WHICH ARE TO BE RANKED AS UNFRIENDLY."

4. EDITORIAL GOES ON TO DEAL WITH DISTINCTION BETWEEN PROPER AND IMPROPER ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS ON BRITISH SOIL; THEIR ACTIVITIES MUST BE BROADLY KNOWN TO SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES AND LAW MUST NOT BE BROKEN. IT NOTES DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INFO GATHERING ACTIVITIES AND ACTIVE INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES: "THE FIRST TYPE OF ACTIVITY IS NOT IN PRINCIPLE OBJECTIONABLE: THE SECOND MOST CERTAINLY IS." AFTER ACKNOWLEDGING REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION IN DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "IN THE CASE OF THE TRADE UNIONS (OR FOR THAT MATTER THE NEWX EPQSLIHKQN#COUNTRY, THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE CIA OR ANY OTHER AGENCY GATHERING WHATEVER INFORMATION ABOUT THEM IT THINKS IT NEEDS, PROVIDED ILLEGAL OR CORRUPT MEANS ARE NOT EMPLOYED, AND PROVIDED THE OPERATION IS NOT DESIGNED OR EXECUTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS. INFORMATION, YES: INTERFERENCE, NO." CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTE BY OCT: LONDON 1193 #AS RECEIVED,
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